

On page 6, line 29, please insert --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

On page 7, line 23, please insert the following: --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--.

On page 17, line 18, please insert the following: --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE CERTAIN PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

IN THE CLAIMS :

Please cancel without prejudice claims 1-22, corresponding to the entirety of the claims currently pending in the application. Please add new claims 23-51 as follows:

23. Bacteria useful as a vehicle for gene transport and gene transfer to eukaryotic cells of an organism for inducing a targeted somatic transgenesis in cells, tissues or organs, except the germ-line cells of the organism, the bacteria comprising a foreign DNA integrated into an episomal vector, the transcription and expression of the foreign DNA being under the control of a eukaryotic regulator gene, wherein the bacteria:
- a. are vital and viable in the organism;
 - b. have pathogenic properties selected from the group consisting of:
 - i. fully pathogenic;
 - ii. attenuated in one or more of the following ways:
 - (1) attenuated to prevent the bacteria from inducing apoptosis of the eukaryotic cells,
 - (2) attenuated to restrict the intracellular motility of the bacteria, and
 - (3) attenuated so as to permit efficient elimination of the bacteria after the foreign DNA is transferred to the eukaryotic cells; and
 - iii. naturally not pathogenic bacteria that is provided with additional pathogenicity factors, said factors enabling the bacteria to infect the organism in a controlled manner, to advance into the organs and tissue of the organism, and to transfer the foreign DNA to remote somatic cells;